

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application is requested. Claims 33-40 remain active in the application subsequent to entry of this Amendment.

Claims 33, 34 and 39 have been amended in order to more particularly point out and distinctly claim that which applicants regard as their invention. Claims 33 and 39 have been amended and directed to preferred aspects of the invention, for instance specifying that the minimum volume of conversion percentage of carbon monoxide into carbon dioxide is 18% as disclosed in the specification at page 21, line 23, an average particle size of 0.02 to 1.0 μm based upon the description at page 18, line 21 (and part of previous claim 34); and a BET surface area of 0.2 to 100 m^2/g , the upper value being taken from the description at page 9, line 14. Basis for the amendments made to the claims will be apparent from the above discussion.

This Amendment responds to the Final Rejection of July 16, 2003 and follows an interview with Examiner Johnson on August 1, 2003.

Attached is an Evidentiary Declaration of Mr. Matsui, one of the inventors of the subject application which includes a series of experiments of the type discussed with the examiner during the interview of August 1, 2003. The materials used and the results obtained are summarized in the Table on page 6 of the Declaration. From this Declaration and evidence it will be noted that the conversion of carbon monoxide into carbon dioxide of experiments 1 and 2 are 19% and 18%, respectively. By contrast, the conversion of carbon monoxide to carbon dioxide in experiment 3 is 15% which are inferior to the results obtained in experiments 1 and 2 which fall within the scope of the present invention.

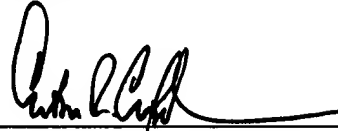
Favorable consideration of this information, entry of this Amendment and allowance of claims 33-40 are solicited.

IMAI et al
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Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: _____



Arthur R. Crawford
Reg. No. 25,327

ARC:eaw
1100 North Glebe Road, 8th Floor
Arlington, VA 22201-4714
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100